

A method, and apparatus to transmit an ATM data message from a source node to a destination node, and reflect at least a portion of the data back to where it is compared to the transmitted data. The destination node includes a reflection circuit service located at a specific selector code address, and the destination node listens for a transmission to the specific selector code for reflecting the portion of received data in a subsequent data message for the connection. The source node addresses a setup message to the destination node containing the specific selector code, and compares the transmitted message with the received message. The source node also includes a method and apparatus to send alternatively trace and path trace information as an attachment to a transmitted message, receive the reflected information element, and pass hop data contained within the information element to a user interface for presentation to a user.